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This spring we caught a school of mackerel and dogfish, and after we had picked out the mackerel we had about 100 barrels of dogfish left. It consumed a great deal of time, and we had some damage done to the fish and our seine. Last year we lost at least \$2000 worth of fish by dogfish attacking our seine on the outside after we had mackerel in it. In the fall when we are fishing for pollock we are bothered more or less the first of the season.—Ralph Webber, Gloucester, sch. Marguerite Haskins, 18 men.

I have been hand lining on Georges, Brown's, La Have and Western banks for thirty years, and dogfish are getting so plenty that at times it is almost impossible to fish, and we have to return with small trips. They seem to come earlier and stay later each year. There are times when we could lay and fish on a small quantity of fish, but dogfish eat our bait before we can get a fair trip. I think we could make at least \$50 more per man each season if we were not bothered so much with dogfish.—Benjamin Johnson, Gloucester, sch. Lawrence Murdock, 14 men.

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THE DOGFISH PEST.

Reports of Captains and Others on Depredations.

Commission Received 195 Reports From This City.

In order that its research and report on the damage caused by dogfish to the fisheries of Massachusetts should be as thorough as possible and that facts should come direct from the men affected by these pests, the Massachusetts fish and game commission sent out circulars to the captains of fishing vessels and boat fishermen, as well as trap and weir men along the coast, which were taken to these men personally by special agents of the commission. From this, 581 replies were received and at the end of each circular was a space for remarks in general regarding the pests. Of these reports received, 195 were from this city, and believing them of considerable importance and interest, the TIMES will print a portion each day until all have been given to our readers.

The reports follow:

NUMBER FOUR.

Capt. Alfred Green of sch. "Flirt of Gloucester," which arrived at Boston, October 19, 1905, from a fishing trip in South Channel, states that he lost \$50 worth of gear by sharks. He fished 70 miles southeast by south of Highland Light, in about 70 fathoms of water.

Sch. Illinois of Gloucester, Capt. John Lowrie, which arrived at Boston, October 17, 1905, reports losing \$100 worth of trawls by getting into a large school of dogfish. He fished in South Channel in about 70 fathoms. He caught at least 10,000 dogfish on this voyage alone. He lost 20 tubs of trawls, which will have to be replaced by new gear.

Sloop Laura Enos of Gloucester, Capt. E. J. Rose, which arrived at Boston September 9 from Jeffreys Bank, had 5000 pounds of fresh pollock from hand-line pollock fishing. She would have had twice this amount of fish had the dogfish not been so plenty. She lost about 430 hooks.

Sch. Alena L. Young, Capt. Charles Nelson of Rockport, arrived at Boston August 26 from Jeffreys Bank pollock fishing, hand-line fishing. This vessel was out on the voyage ten days, and the crew of 10 men shared only

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34 cents each, owing to the fact that dogfish were numerous on the fishing ground. Broken ribs like this discourage the men, and often they leave the vessel.

The following is a statement by Deputy Capt. Benjamin A. Foster, on the commission's launch Egret, covering the month of July:

I have seen almost every trap hauled between Nahant and Rockport, and I saw but one large lot of dogfish, and that was the trap at Dana's Island. There was in this haul about 75 barrels, which were taken off shore and thrown away. I saw one boat off Halfway Rock. I watched the hauling of the trawls for one-half hour, and, as near as it was possible for me to tell, he caught 250 dogfish and not much of anything else, for there were a dozen small codfish and haddock, mostly eaten up. The shore fishermen complain that they are having lots of trouble with them. There were some in every trap I saw hauled, but in most of them not enough to be very troublesome. In the Kettle Island trap they had five barrels of "bluebacks," 42 dogfish and not much of anything else.

The special agents of the commission interviewed 584 fishermen, from Newburyport to Newport, including masters of vessels, shore, net, trawls and hand line, and trap and weir fishermen. These agents asked questions designed to secure free, full and accurate replies to the questions below. This information has been tabulated. The questions and the results of the tabulated returns are as follows:—

Apparatus used (specify kind of apparatus used, and number of each kind).

Hand lines, 6,833; nets, 8,224; gills, 1,536; tubs, 8,915; trawls, 1,742; weirs, 45.

How many pounds do you consider your average total annual catch of edible and bait fish?

194,915,050.

What do you consider a fair estimate of your annual catch of dogfish?

27,687,150.

Is this number a guess, or is it estimated on actual counts for a week or a month?

Fair estimate.

During what months is the smooth dogfish present?

April to December; most numerous in May and June and October to December.

Practically limited to waters south of Cape Cod.

During what months is the spiny dogfish present?

April to December in all waters off shore, to 50 to 75 fathoms.

Do dogfish damage your apparatus?

Yes, 586; no, 3.

What do you consider a fair estimate of the annual damage done by dogfish to your seines, nets, trawls, bait handlines, weirs, traps?

Seines, \$6350; nets, \$27,181; trawls, \$58,998 50; bait, \$56,458; handlines, \$10,830; weirs, \$1000; traps, \$100; total, \$160,817 50.

Is the above fair a guess, or is it based up on actual records of expenses caused by dogfish, of loss of material and of time spent in repairs?

Fair estimate, 475; guess, 89.

Are many fish caught by your apparatus eaten or bitten by dogfish so as to destroy market value?

Yes, 533; no, 41.

What do you consider a fair estimate of the value of the fish caught in your apparatus and made worthless by dogfish?

\$250,405.

Do you kill the dogfish captured?

Yes, 511; no, 40.

In your opinion, does the dogfish do appreciable damage to the supply of edible and bait fish?

Yes, 578; no, 3.

Has there been an average total catch of fish this season?

Yes, 233; no, 353.

Do you note any increase or decrease in the numbers of dogfish in the past year?

Increase, 346; about same, 159; decrease, 86.

In your opinion, has there been an increase or decrease in the past ten years?

Increase, 544; decrease, 22; about the same, 2.

Do you make any use of dogfish?

Yes, 44; no, 506.

If so, what?

Livers.

What value do you place on the dogfish so used?

\$444.

What, in your opinion, would be the effect of a bounty on dogfish?

Good, 582; bad, 7.

Would it decrease the number of dogfish?

Yes, 523; no, 3.

Would it increase the profits of the fishermen? If so, how?

Yes, 569; no, 12.

Would it increase the supply of food fish, and thus benefit the public?

Yes, 587; no, 1.

Would a decrease in the number of dogfish lessen the expense of catching food fish?

Yes, 584; no, 3.

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DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

Today's Fish Market.

These prices are based on the last known sales.

Salt handline Georges codfish, \$5.25 per cwt. for large, \$4.25 for medium.

Salt trawl Georges codfish, \$5 for large, 4.00 for medium.

Salt hake, \$1.25.

Salt haddock, \$1.75.

Salt cusk, \$2.50.

Salt trawl bank codfish, \$4.50 for large, \$3.50 for medium, \$2.50 for snappers.

Newfoundland salt herring, in bulk, \$4.50 per bbl.

Newfoundland salt herring, barrelled, \$5.75 per bbl.

Newfoundland frozen herring for bait, \$3.00 per cwt.

Shore frozen herring, for bait, \$2.50 per cwt.

Fresh halibut, 10 cents per lb. for white and 6 1-2 cts. for gray.

Splitting prices of fresh fish, large cod, \$2.25 medium cod, \$1.37 1-2; haddock, 86 cts; hake, 85 cts.; cusk, \$1.40; pollock, 65 cts.

Boston.

Sch James S. Steele, 4500 haddock, 2000 cod.

Haddock, \$2.75; large cod, \$3; market cod, \$1.75.

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Herring Notes.

Sch. Henry M. Stanley has completed the discharge of her cargo of frozen herring at New York and loaded coal for this port.

Sch. Avalon, which took her cargo of frozen herring to Philadelphia, arrived here this morning with coal for Montgomery.

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THE SALT BANK FLEET.

To Comprise About Same Number Vessels as Last Year.

List of Craft Which Will Sail from This Port.

From present appearance the salt bank cod-fishing fleet from this port will be about the same in number as last year with possibly a few more added later in the season. Some of the firms have not just fully decided how many and exactly what crafts they will send, but below is published a list of the crafts that are practically sure to engage in this fishery from this port. Bucksport and Provincetown.

Already the advance guard of the fleet have sailed a few days ago, about a week behind the first sailings of last year.

A number of others are now fitting, including schs. Aloha and Colonial, but the great majority of the fleet will not begin to get ready until next week and the week after, and it will probably be well into March before all get away.

Last season the vessels were fortunate in having fine weather early in the year and encountered no very hard breezes. They are hoping for the same success this year, although some of the skippers are of the opinion that they will be bothered more or less by ice.

The list of those decided upon to go is as follows:

Sch. Maxine Elliott, Capt. Charles Upshell.
Sch. J. J. Flaherty, Capt. Fred LeBlanc.
Sch. Senator Gardner, Capt. Vincent Nelson.

Sch. Helen F. Whitten, Capt. William F. Morrissey.

Sch. Gossip, Capt. Gilbert Goodwin.

Sch. Alice R. Lawson, Capt. Warren Forbes.

Sch. Flirt, Capt. Alfred Green.

Sch. A. E. Whyland, Capt. Fred Morrissey.

Sch. W. E. Morrissey, Capt. C. Hiram Forbes.

Sch. Independence II., Capt. Joseph V. Cusiak.

Sch. Aloha, Capt. John McInnis.

Sch. Arkona, Capt. Newman Wharton.

Sch. Talisman.

Sch. Arabia, Capt. Charles Rudolph.

Sch. Bohemia, Capt. Ormsbee Seeley.

Sch. Parthia, Capt. Edward Seeley.

Sch. Elector, Capt. Clayton E. Morrissey.

Sch. Georgie Campbell, Capt. Albert Hubbard.

Sch. Maggie and May, Capt. Alex. McEachern.

Sch. Oregon, Capt. William H. Goodwin.

Sch. Gladiator, Capt. Joseph Spinney.

Sch. Essex, Capt. Clifford Vanamberg.

Sch. Sceptre, Capt. William B. Larkin.

Sch. Athlete, Capt. Leroy Spinney.

Sch. Henry M. Stanley, Capt. James Van

Wharton.

Sch. Hazel R. Hines.

Sch. Mabel D. Hines.

Sch. Hiram Lowell, Capt. William Wharton.

Sch. American, Capt. Wilson Spinney.

Sch. Horace B. Parker, Capt. Jesse L. Morton.

Sch. John L. Nicholson, Capt. Daniel Ryder.

Sch. Judique, Capt. John Glinn.

Sch. Madonna, Capt. Robert Wilson.

Sch. Maryland, Capt. George P. Tufts.

Sch. Hattie A. Heckman, Capt. Adolphus Spinney.

Sch. S. P. Willard, Capt. Louis Wharton.

Sch. Valkyria, Capt. Angus Hines.

Sch. Senator Saulsbury, Capt. Roderick H. McNeil.

Sch. Colonial, Capt. Patrick T. Shea.

It is also probable that sch. Blue Jacket and others will also go from this port.

From Provincetown, schs. Gladstone, Lottie Brynes and Dido are expected to go.

From Boston, sch. Selma will go under command of Capt. William H. Goodwin, also sch. Mildred Robinson, Capt. Wilson Caboon.

From Bucksport, Me., schs. T. M. Nicholson, Elizabeth N., M. B. Stetson and Lizzie Griffin are expected to go.

It is also expected that sch. Margaret will go from Beverly.

Some vessels may also possibly go from Boothbay Harbor, Me.

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TALKED WITH PRESIDENT.

Board of Trade Committee Sees Nation's Executive.

PURE FOOD BILL DISCUSSED.

With Congressman Gardner at Committee Hearing Later.

A Washington dispatch of last evening said: Pure food legislation was briefly discussed by the President this morning with a delegation of business men from Gloucester, who are interested in the fisheries.

In the delegation, which was introduced to the president by Representative Gardner, were T. J. Carroll, president of the Gloucester Board of Trade; W. F. Moore, secretary of the Gloucester fisheries committee, and Benjamin A. Smith of the firm of D. B. Smith & Co.

The President favors pure food legislation, but he made it clear to his visitors that he wanted nothing radical. Later the Gloucester delegation lunched with Mr. Gardner at the capitol and then appeared before the committee on commerce. Mr. Gardner spoke at some length in favor of an amendment to the Hepburn pure food bill permitting the use of boracic acid in packing codfish.

He said he had been informed that Dr. Wiley, the agriculture department's chemist, would oppose an amendment providing for tests of codfish to determine whether it has preservatives in it to an extent that will render it dangerous to health, the tests to be made after the dried fish is soaked in water as is done before it is eaten.

Dr. Wiley favored that amendment last year. Mr. Gardner stated that he and the Gloucester fish packers wanted it adopted this year, or else an amendment providing for a scale of maximum quantities of preservatives.

If any food product has less than the amount of preservative specified that product shall be regarded as pure. The quantity of boracic acid suggested for codfish is one-half of 1 per cent.

"We do not want to produce an article of food," said Mr. Gardner, "that is perfectly harmless and then be subject to fine and imprisonment when we send it into different states, simply because it has a certain quantity of preservative in it that is absolutely harmless."

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Mr. Gardner introduced Thomas J. Carroll to the committee. Mr. Carroll described the methods of preparing codfish and the system of packing it. He said the total trade of Gloucester amounts to \$8,000,000 a year. He said that if the law forbade the use of boracic acid the codfish industry would be ruined. He asked the committee to adopt an amendment providing that every fish product be labelled properly, so that haddock and other fish cannot be sold by irresponsible persons for cod. The other members of the delegation did not speak.

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THE DOGFISH PEST.

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The reports follow:

NUMBER FIVE.

It is my opinion that when dogfish are plenty we make more money, as there is less edible fish landed, and we get higher prices. Last spring on one trip we lost 20 trawls, valued at about \$140, by the dogfish. It is my opinion that a bounty of one cent would not encourage the fishermen to catch them.—J. O. Brigham, Boston, sch. Shepherd King.

It is my opinion that the price received for the dogfish would not pay us to save them.—Julius Anderson, Boston, sch. Robert and Arthur.

In August, 1905, we set 40 nets just south-east of Thatcher's island, five miles, at 7 p. m. Had to haul them immediately on account of dogfish being so numerous. We got 50 mackerel, 20 salable and 30 eaten all except heads; price, 25 cents each. This was done for several nights with the same results. On September 1 started handline fishing on grounds located from Eastern Point, Gloucester, to Newburyport, about five to ten miles off shore.

Have been on the grounds the past seven days, and each day after catching a few food fish, dogfish have appeared; and after making two or three berths of from one to two miles each were obliged to leave the fishing grounds.—Capt. William P. Brinnick, Boston, sloop Jennie Maud, three to four men.

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We fish with trawls in the spring of the year until dogfish make their appearance; then we go south and fish for mackerel with nets. Dogfish are very numerous when the mackerel appear, and it is hard work to keep clear from them. They follow the fish along the shore, and are a pest from May until November, and sometimes later. The more mackerel, the more dogfish. They are so plenty in Massachusetts Bay after July 1 that we abandon netting and go swordfishing until about September; then we go land lining or trawling. Last spring one night off New York we lost nets, valued at \$10 each, besides the fish they contained. We had taken from part of our nets 1800 fish at 40 cents each, when dogfish struck; and we lost 10 nets and all the fish in the remaining net, valued at \$2000 to \$4000.—Capt. Fred Wolfe, Boston, sch. Priscilla, eight to twelve men.

We have not been bothered so much in the channel this summer as previous years, and we have caught a great many more fish. We have had to sell them cheaper, although we have made as much money. When we strike dogfish they ruin our gear and prevent us from getting a trip. In September, 1905, we made two sets, and got a large quantity of dogfish, and did not get 1,000 pounds of food fish; the three previous sets, in the absence of dogfish, we got 8000 pounds of food fish each set.—John Thompson, Boston, sch. Mary Edith, 14 men.

Dogfish have been so plentiful for several years we cannot set any mackerel nets in fall as we used to, as dogfish chew the fish and gear all to pieces, and trawls about the same.—J. W. Sears, Provincetown.

I think it would be the best thing that could happen to the fishermen, and to the public at large, making it possible to catch fish that it is now impossible to catch on account of dogfish.—Joseph Hobert, Provincetown, sch. Vesta, 4 men.

I have been in the business 20 years, and when I first went, the dogfish would come about June 1 and go north in Massachusetts Bay, and be through by July 15. They would come back about September 1 and October 1 they would be gone by. Now they come May 15 and stay till November 1, without going away. When we are engaged in trawling, from November 1 to May 1, the dogfish are not on the coast.—John K. Cobb, Provincetown, sch. Betsy Ross.

We arrived at Boston November 3, from fishing off Highland Light, Cape Cod. Small dogfish were very plenty there, and bothersome. We would have had 25,000 or 50,000 more pounds of fish, if dogfish were not there. During this summer we have lost by dogfish, in two trips alone, 50 tubs of trawls, valued at \$300.—Antonio K. Sousa, Provincetown, sch. Philip P. Manta.

It is almost impossible to fish with nets in Barnstable Bay now. The main damage is that where they have been we cannot catch any other fish.—Alfred A. Mayo, Provincetown, sch. Iris.

Dogfish have driven many of our boat fishermen out of business by the destruction they have made, causing much loss of time and labor. Used to save livers when they were in good demand for oil, but of late years they have not been worth marketing, unless encouragement is given by adding bounty.—William Pierce, Salisbury, dory, one man.

Believe annual damage to trawls and hand lines will average from one-half to three quarters of actual value. Have seen large quantities of hake and other good food fish driven upon beach by schools of dogfish. Market fish caught on trawls often entirely destroyed by dogfish, which are also found on trawls in large numbers.—H. F. Woodward, Salisbury, dory, one man.

Dogfish cause great destruction to trawl gear; also responsible for large loss of bait and food fish. Have found many large cod and fother food fish which would weigh from 50 to 70 pounds, entirely eaten by dogfish, leaving only head and backbone hanging to hook. Set trawls with 900 hooks, and on hauling, counted 700 dogfish, two hake, one cod.—Wallace Kennedy, Beverly, sloop Governor Cleaves, two men.

Twenty years ago there were about 150 sail of small fishing boats belonging to this port; in the past year there were less than 50. A great deal of this decrease is directly responsible to the dogfish pest, which has practically driven two-thirds of our fleet out of business. This seems to me to be an unanswerable argument in favor of a bill to protect this industry, by paying a small bounty towards the wiping out of this nuisance.—Charles S. Currier, Newburyport, dory.

Used to make good year's work fishing. Now in spring of year, when dogfish school about here, have to knock off trying to fish, as they will destroy all food fish caught, and cause great damage, if not total loss, to all fishing gear put in water. Have hauled trawls finding nothing but head or backbone left of codfish which would weigh, if whole, from 60 to 70 pounds each; others with large bites taken out, entirely destroying market value. If fishermen were encouraged to make war on them by a small bounty, think everybody would benefit greatly by their decrease.—George M. Souther, Newburyport, dory.

Dogfish will bite holes in net about four or five inches square; also on trawls bite off the gangings and completely destroy same, taking bait and hook, leaving nothing but running line. We lose about from one-third to one-half of our trawl gear every year in this manner. If a bounty is passed will try to have satisfaction on them for losses sustained. They have driven about two-thirds of our former boat fishermen out of the business entirely.—A. P. Hilton, Newburyport, gasoline boat, two men.

Dogfish annually cause a heavy loss to small boat fishermen. Trawls set over night are often found stripped of all marketable fish, besides being wrenched apart and snarled up so as to cause often total loss of material. After dogfish make their appearance many fishermen have to lay idle a long time, or go into some other industry to make a living.—Clarence C. Lunt, Newburyport, gasoline boat, two men.

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DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Arthbr Binney, shore.

Sch. Ella G. King, Georges, 12,000 lbs. salt cod, 4900 lbs. halibut.

Sch. Alice M. Guthrie, shore.

Today's Fish Market.

These prices are based on the last known sales.

Salt handline Georges codfish, \$5.25 per cwt. for large, \$4.25 for medium.

Salt trawl Georges codfish, \$5 for large, 4.00 for medium.

Salt hake, \$1.25.

Salt haddock, \$1.75.

Salt cusk, \$2.50.

Salt trawl bank codfish, \$4.50 for large, \$3.50 for medium, \$2.50 for snappers.

Newfoundland salt herring, in bulk, \$4.50 per bbl.

Newfoundland salt herring, barrelled, \$5.75 per bbl.

Newfoundland frozen herring for bait, \$3.00 per cwt.

Shore frozen herring, for bait, \$2.50 per cwt.

Fresh halibut, 10 cents per lb. for white and 6 1-2 cts. for gray.

Splitting prices of fresh fish, large cod, \$2.25 medium cod, \$1.37 1-2; haddock, 86 cts; hake, 85 cts; cusk, \$1.40; pollock, 65 cts.

Boston.

Sch. Hope, 7000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. Lillian, 20,000 cod.

Sch. Mary Edith, 4500 haddock, 300 cod.

Sch. Olive F. Hutchins, 3000 haddock, 1000 cod, 5000 hake.

Sch. Louisa R. Silva, 21,000 haddock, 1200 cod.

Sch. Stranger, 6000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. A. C. Newhall, 5000 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Sylvia M. Numan, 6000 haddock, 400 cod, 1060 hake.

Sch. Lizzie M. Stanley, 45,000 haddock.

Haddock, \$2 to \$2.50; large cod, \$3.25; market cod, \$1.25; hake, \$1 to \$4; pollock, \$3.50.

AT DOGFISH HEARING.

Congressman Gardner Will Assist Congressman Terrill.

Hearing Has Been Set for Week of February 26.

The hearing before the sub-committee of the committee of merchant marine and fisheries at Washington, on the demand for dogfish legislation has been set down for sometime during the week of February 26.

Congressman Terrill of Natick will have charge of the hearing and will be assisted by Congressman Gardner of this district. It is understood in Washington that Ex-Representative McIntire of this city will head the delegation which will appear before the committee from this state.

Feb. 19

Herring Notes.

Sch. Georgie Campbell sailed today for New York where she will take out her cargo of frozen herring.

SPRAY'S FIFTH TRIP.

At T Wharf Today with About 97,000 Pounds Fish.

Was Absent Twelve Days and Secured Fare on Georges.

The steam otter trawler Spray, Capt. H. Dexter Malone, arrived at Boston this morning from her fifth trip since she was launched, with a good fare of 97,000 pounds of fresh fish, 93,000 pounds of which are haddock. The craft was 12 days on the trip and fished on the southwestern part of Georges.

The market is very dull at Boston today, two offshore fares being on the way here to the splitters, while live shore haddock sold for \$1.25 per hundred weight and from that up to \$2.

The trip of the Spray will undoubtedly be taken out by the stockholders on the wharf, but as the prices are so low and the market does not want but few off shore fish, the craft will not make a very big return for her good-sized trip.